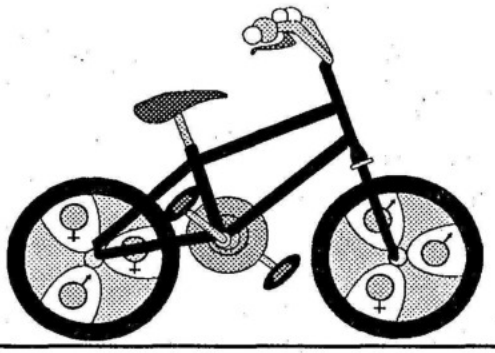


OBN NEWS

Jan. / Feb. 1992

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Tel: (416)-649-1356 / Fax: (416)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safe sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.

S.O.S. for the Canadian Human Rights Act

A new coalition group *Sexual Orientation Sexuelle for the Canadian Human Rights Act* has formed in Toronto to attempt to raise the profile of needing to include sexual orientation within the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Organizations that have signed on include *Queer Nation, AIDS Action Now* and *Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE)*. The coalition intends to celebrate the 6th anniversary of federal government minister John Crosbie's statement that Ottawa would take "all means necessary to protect lesbian, gay and bisexual rights", by targeting major political leaders' headquarters for lobbying measures.

For further information about S.O.S and upcoming meetings, see Stephen at the next OBN meeting.

(Ed. note: The Ontario Bisexual Network is a means of getting bisexual people together and does not adopt positions on behalf of its participants. Individuals are encouraged to participate in issues on their own behalf, or by forming alliances with those others who wish to join them in that activity. For example, several OBN participants have formed a small group for bi political action, called Embrace, which has endorsed the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act. See Bruce or Stephen at the next OBN meeting for details.)

Bi Radio Ideas

There are some ideas that have been expressed by various OBN members for topics for a radio show *by, for and about bisexuals*, to run on CKLN-FM 88.1 Toronto on Sunday, June 21st, as part of the 24-hour *"Queeradio"* special, a preview for Pride Day 1992.

Anyone is free to suggest possible topics for the show. By mid-March CKLN will require a formal proposal that details our program plans. Assuming it gets the go-ahead, people will be needed for writing and on-air duties. *For more information, see Stephen at the next OBN meeting.*

U of T Forum Discusses Bisexuality

On Wednesday, February 5th, the University of Toronto's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Awareness Week held a forum called *"Myths and Realities of Bisexuality"*.

Four OBN members, Catherine Crockett, Jennifer Chambers, Peter Pocock and Stephen Harvey spoke on topics such as coming out, AIDS education and individual approaches to one's sexual identity, to a capacity crowd of about seventy people, the largest of the week.

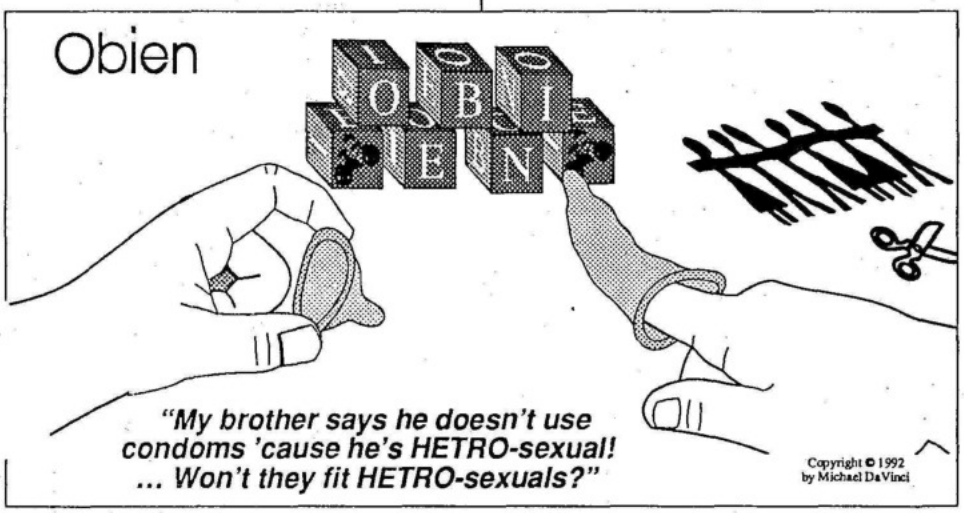
There was extensive discussion among participants and speakers, which stimulated debate about the position of the bisexual amongst the gay and lesbian community and the strength of a bisexual subculture.

Bisexuals at U of T can attend the weekly meetings of *Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals at University of Toronto* (LGB-OUT), Fridays at 7 pm, at 33 St. George Street. Additionally, women can attend the Lesbian/Bisexual Coming Out Group, Mondays at 7:30 pm at 49 St. George Street.

Coming Out as a Much Wider Issue

(Opinion by Bruce M. Small)

In our society, coming out as a bisexual person has often felt like a difficult process, and many of us have a great deal of fear around doing so. I think it is true that in our society many of us feel pressured to hide *a great deal more of our personality than our sexuality*. OBN may be a safe place to try letting more of your self show.



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CANADIAN GAY ARCHIVES

Bi Singing Group

The singing group is still gathering every several weeks for a wide variety of music. New singers of any persuasion are welcome; no experience required. Bring your favourite tunes. The next meeting is in Toronto on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7 - 9 pm. Call the OBN number for further details and location.

BI PERSONAL ADS

BI MALE, 29 is looking for new bi friends, female or male, to socialize together and sample all kinds of Toronto nightlife (theatre, dance clubs, concerts, whatever!!). Write Stephen, c/o OBN, 519 Church St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 6C9.

LOKING FOR A MAN? Big guy, dark skin, 5'9", 180 lb., 37 yr. old is looking for a male companion 20 yr. old or more. Call Boyie at 658-4925.

MOVE TO HAWAII with an attractive 30-something professional man. Looking for a warm, loving committed relationship with a slim, attractive, bisexual femme who will have me as her only man and also keep herself emotionally and sexually fulfilled with womyn. (I'll be away about half the time.) Seeking a mate, not a mistress, and ideally a genuine menage a trois — a household of three — with lots of womyn friends. (Please, no drug/alcohol/legal/other crises.) I'm very liberal, feminist, pro-gay (but hetero) and love to massage, tickle and otherwise pleasurably stimulate womyn, especially witha little help from our friends. Seriously, I need womyn's company, trust, friendship and affection — plus an excape from men and hetero/bi/homophobic people. I'm healthy and HIV negative, not wealthy ($50,000/yr.) but financially secure, certainly not wise but smart enough to know it. Love to hear from you. Gary. 1115 Sartori Ave., Box 217, Torrance CA 90501-2226, (310)-515-3347.

(Bi Personal Ads are free to persons who feel the readers of OBN News are the right market for them. Our circulation is small but we are all wonderful people! Call, write or fax OBN News anytime to place an ad in the next issue.)

VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE

Is the nuclear family dead yet?
When will the mutations take place?
Will new forms of companionship between individuals emerge?
What will new houses be like?
What will we call a large or a small family?
Will there be room for more than two parents or less than one?
Will children be allowed to adopt their parents?

Feel free to forward your answer(s) to any questions appearing in VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE to the OBN News, c/o Léo Beaulieu.

Sexuality Theory Group Explores New Ground

The sexuality theory group continues its in-depth discussions about all sorts of fascinating topics, from the use of condoms and attitudes towards safe sexuality, to creating effective relationships.

At the last meeting we even conducted an impromptu meeting-within-a-meeting of the bi political group *Embrace*, whose members collectively and unanimously endorsed the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

The group and/or its individual participants now have several pamphlet projects on the go, including *'safe sex for bis'*, *'bisexuality and youth'*, and *'why two condoms are better than one'*.

We are also struggling to find the right language to be able to convince the general population, including heterosexual people, that it is necessary to take precautions if you want to prevent the spread of diseases during sex, and that no individual or group is particularly immune to that risk.

The group will also try an experiment at the next meeting by starting off with a demonstration of peer counselling as a means of supporting each other and "dusting each other off" from the tensions of the day, to help us think more clearly in the ensuing discussions.

Anyone interested in joining us for a lively discussion about these or other topics is invited to call the OBN number or enquire at the next OBN meeting. The next theory meeting is Monday, March 16th from 7 to 9 pm. Call re location.

New Peterborough Bi Group Formed

A new Bisexual Association has been formed in Peterborough, Ontario. *"Biverse"* meets every Wednesday from 8-10 pm, at Jung House, 290 Rubidge St. (at the corner of King St.) *Biverse* is open to everyone.

Biverse recently participated in a campaign at Trent University called *Bisexual, Lesbian & Gay Awareness Days (BGLAD)*, from February 7th to 14th. Of particular note was a dance hosted by *Biverse* on the 7th and a discussion group held on the 12th.

For further information, feel free to write or phone: Biverse, 290 Rubidge St., Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3P4, telephone (705)-743-5414.

OBN Meeting Times

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on the third Thursday of every month from 8 to 10 p.m., at the 519 Community Center (519 Church Street, just north of Wellesley). Newsletters are available at the 519 and at every meeting.

To keep the treasury viable, we will be continuing a "pass-the-hat" policy for all regular OBN meetings. Those attending will be expected to toss in up to $2 each to cover expenses, including newsletters.

Who to Contact

The following is a list of people who have volunteered their time to talk with you about questions you may have, or if you just need someone for emotional support:

Bill Jeffery 922-4262
Bruce Small 649-1356
Carol Broderick 766-7011
Catherine Crockett 537-5832
Les Green 968-6955